

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9483
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: DEBATE GROWS ON SUAREZ CANDIDACY

REF: (A) MADRID 2189, (B) 2147

1. IN A FOLLOW-UP TO HIS PAPER'S EDITORIAL OF THE DAY BEFORE (REF A), EL PAIS EDITOR JUAN LUIS CEBRIAN TOOK THE UNUSUAL STEP OF WRITING A SIGNED COLUMN BEGINNING ON THE FRONT PAGE TO INVEIGH VIGOROUSLY AGAINST A POSSIBLE SUAREZ CANDIDACY. CITING "MORAL, POLITICAL, HISTORICAL, AND EVEN PRAGMATIC REASONS" WHY SUAREZ SHOULD NOT RUN, CEBRIAN INCLUDED POSSIBLE HARM TO THE MONARCHY ITSELF.

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2. CEBRIAN SAID CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION EXISTS AS TO WHETHER SUAREZ SHOULD RUN AND WHAT POSITION TO TAKE ON THE QUESTION, AND NOTED POINTEDLY THAT THERE ARE EVEN THOSE WHO SAY THE KING IS PUSHING HIM TO DO IT. CEBRIAN DISMISSED FEAR OF A STRONG SHOWING BY THE CONSERVATIVE ALIANZA POPULAR AS A VALID PRETEXT, POINTING UP THE ESSENTIALLY AND (HE SAID) ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY CONSTITUENT CHARACTER OF THE NEXT

CORTES AND STRESSING THEIR NEED TO BE AS TRULY REPRESENTATIVE
AS POSSIBLE.

3. DESPITE THE SAFEGUARDS OF THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW, CEBRIAN
CONTINUED, SOME GOVT INFLUENCE OVER THE ELECTORATE IS
INEVITABLE. CALLING A SUAREZ CANDIDACY AN "ADDITIONA
OBSTACLE", CEBRIAN JUDGED:

- HE DOESN'T NEED IT TO STAY IN OFFICE;
- HE DOESN'T NEED IT TO DEMONSTRATE POPULAR SUPPORT;
- BEING ELECTED WOULD BE TOO EASY FOR HIM TO HAVE MUCH
SIGNIFICANCE;
- IT WOULD LOOK EVEN WORSE BECAUSE HE ISNOT PERMITTING
HIS MINISTERS TO DO THE SAME; AND
- RUNNING WOULD APPEAR TO BE MAKING POLITICAL CAPITAL
OUT OF HIS ROYAL PALACE CONNECTION.

4.CEBRIAN CONCLUDED THAT SUAREZ HAS EARNED THE PRAISE AND
ADMIRATION HE HAS WON OVER THE SKEPTICISM WHICH GREETED HIS
APPOINTMENT, AND WENT ON TO WARN, "HE SHOULD NOT RUIN NOW
WHAT COST HIM SO MUCH EFFORT. THE BEGINNING OF HIS
ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WOULD ALSO BE--HOWEVER OVERWHELMING HIS
VICTORY TURNED OUT--THAT OF THE DECLINE OF HIS HISTORICAL
PRESTIGE. HE WOULD WIN THE ELECTIONS, BUT
LOSE THE FUTURE--AND PERHAPS, WITHOUT MEANING TO, ALSO THAT
OF HIS KING".

5. IN AN AFTERNOON COLUMN THE SAME DAY, POLITICAL
COMMENTATOR ABEL HERNANDEZ SAID THE TWO EL PAIS PIECES
HAD SET OFF "AN AUTHENTIC NATIONAL DEBATE". WITHOUT TAKING
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A POSITION HIMSELF, HENANDEZ QUOTED THE VARYING POSITIONS
TO BE FOUND ON THE MATTER WITHIN THE POLITICAL CLASS,
INCLUDING THE OPPOSITION OF THE PSOE'S FELIPE
GONZALEZ (REF B), THE APPARENT ACQUIESCENCE OF LEADING
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT RUIZ GIMENEZ AND SOCIALIST (PSP) TIerno
GALVAN IN AN INDEPENDENT SUAREZ CANDIDACY, THE HOPE OF
SOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATS THAT SUAREZ RUN AT THE HEAD OF A
DEFINED GROUP, AND THE STATEMENT OF AN ANONYMOUS "OUTSTANDING
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER" THAT "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN
THE END, ALL OF US MODERATE DEMOCRATS AND GOING TO ASK HIM TO
RUN".EATON

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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